

Funeral parlour plans thrown out over safety fears

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Courtesy The Extra

Safety fears caused councillors to reject plans to transform a Barrhead pub into a funeral parlour.

Sava Estates' application to open the business on the site of the former Hurlet Carvery had been recommended for approval by council planning chiefs.

However, councillors on the planning panel ignored the advice, deciding to snub the proposal, which had received numerous complaints from nearby residents.

In a tight vote, three councillors – Betty Cunningham, Jim Fletcher and Stewart Miller – voted against the plan while two, Annette Ireland and Angela Convery, ruled in favour.

Councillor Miller said those who had visited the site had raised concerns over its exit, branding it “too dangerous”.

He said: “You had to be 3/4 of the way out of the exit before you could see what was coming. It was too dangerous. That’s the only reason I went against it.”

He said even councillors who had voted for the plan had spoke out about issues around the exit.

Dozens of objections to the scheme were submitted, with residents raised concerns over an increase in traffic and noise pollution as well as a negative impact on greenspace, wildlife and property values.

They said an alternative site should be found for the funeral parlour, which would have been erected just yards away from where East Renfrewshire’s first crematorium will be built.

One resident said: “This development will be an eyesore. One does not want to be reminded of one’s

mortality all the time.”

Sava Estates planned to build a service area for ceremonies, with a capacity of 40 to 50 people, four viewing areas, a foyer and reception areas.

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